

**ABSTRACT**

Security mechanisms are disclosed that protect the integrity of the candidate access node discovery procedures in a mobile communication network. In accordance with an aspect of the invention, an access node stores information on candidate access nodes in the mobile communication network and updates the information only after verifying information provided by a mobile terminal after a handoff from one access node to another access node. In accordance with another aspect of the invention, the information on candidate access nodes in the mobile communication network are associated with a particular mobile terminal and stored at the mobile terminal in a candidate access node list.